

From: Charles Edward Lincoln III <c.e.lincoln@worldnet.att.net> on 08/03/99 10:49 PM GMT

To: President@gateway

CC:

Subject: Genetically engineered agricultural products: truthful label

*** RECEIVED ***

Sep 28, 1999 15:12:13 WS# 02
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[Connection Information]

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BROWSER: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 4.0; Windows 95)
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[Sender Information]

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[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Register disagreement with a position
TOPIC: Agriculture
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen
SUBJECT: Genetically engineered agricultural products: truthful
labelling.

[Message]

Dear President Clinton:

The newsmedia are reporting that the government has prohibited the truthful labelling of foods which are or contain genetically engineered agricultural products. If this is true, I would ask what possible rationale or excuse there could be for such a regulation or government policy? The FDA for years has required that detailed breakdowns on the contents of all food and cosmetics be included on product labels. Why this special treatment for genetically altered products?

I have read that European countries, in particular France, have all but forbidden the use of certain genetically altered foodstuffs. If this is true, why is the U.S. Government opposed to the complete diffusion of information on genetic engineering of foods to the American people? I remain

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open-minded enough that I would be willing to be convinced by facts, tests, demonstrations, and argument that genetically engineered foods are safe.

But the first step is, I want to know, as a consumer, which foods are or contain genetically altered substances. I am, and all other American consumers are, entitled to have this information. Without freedom of information, there is no freedom to act rationally or make rational choices. Well-reasoned debate is impossible. If the newsmedia are correctly representing U.S. policy, then U.S. policy must change. I would ask for a clarification of U.S. policy in this regard, and for further information on the rationale for limiting public access to corporate decisions regarding the use and dissemination of genetically altered products. We are entitled to education and choice as well as protection in our choice of foods: that is the purpose of the FDA and of the executive branch's regulation of the food industry in general. GIVE US THAT CHOICE BY REQUIRING LABELLING! Then allow a free debate about what is and is not safe, following the example of other industrialized nations.